

For Immediate Release  
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**ROCKLAND AWARDED \$150,000 FROM FEDERAL STIMULUS  
FUNDS FOR NEW SOLAR INSTALATION**

**STATE HOUSE, BOSTON** – State Senator Michael W. Morrissey (D-Quincy) and State Representative Robert Nyman (D-Hanover), in partnership with the Rockland Energy Committee, today announced that the Town of Rockland has been awarded a \$150,000 Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant to construct a 24 kW solar photovoltaic system on the R. Stewart Esten Elementary School.

The project is estimated to save the town between \$4,000 and \$6,000 in operating budget costs annually. It will also be incorporated into the school curriculum and be used as a teaching tool for students at the school.

“These funds will enable Rockland to move even further towards our shared goals to invest in renewable energy technologies and reduce their energy costs,” said Senator Morrissey.

“Today’s news is great news for the Energy Committee, the school community and the entire town,” said Representative Nyman. “Rockland is a community truly on the move when it comes to advancing a sustainable, energy-efficient agenda. I’m proud to continue my partnership with the town to achieve these goals, and I join with Senator Morrissey in congratulating the hard work and dedication of the local officials, particularly the members of the Rockland Energy Committee.”

The grant funding, which the Energy Committee applied for late last year, allows the town to continue with plans to construct a second grant-funded solar array in the town. Last year, the Committee received their first grant from the state to construct a similar solar-array at the Rockland High School, which has already been wide-received and incorporated into the curriculum there.

“Rockland is moving forward, and we’re moving forward together—our elected officials, town leaders, students and residents alike,” said Mike Mullen, Jr., Secretary of the Energy Committee and a member of the Rockland School Committee. “Today’s grant announcement by Governor Patrick really serves as a true testament to the partnerships the Energy Committee has formed with our federal, state and fellow local leaders. I can’t imagine where we’d be without their continued support of our endeavors.”

This award announcement comes as part of a \$13 million Federal Stimulus Grant from the Department of Energy to Massachusetts. The state’s Department of Energy and Resources allocated the funds to help 111 communities invest in clean energy and energy efficiency projects that will reduce long-term energy costs, increase energy independence, and create jobs.

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